

FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS
Senate Bill 720
Education - Artificial Intelligence - Guidelines, Professional Development, and Collaborative (Artificial Intelligence Ready Schools Act)

House Ways & Means Committee
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Lauren Lamb
Government Relations

The Maryland State Education Association supports, with an amendment, Senate Bill 720, which would require the State Department of Education (MSDE) to provide artificial intelligence guidance and best practices to local education agencies (LEAs), educators, parents, and students. It would also require LEAs to create policies governing the use of artificial intelligence and establish the Maryland Education Collaborative on Artificial Intelligence in K-12 Education to study, report on, and make recommendations regarding the uses of artificial intelligence in each local school system. It would require each county board to designate a coordinator for the use of artificial intelligence and create requirements for educator professional development on artificial intelligence.

MSEA represents 76,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our almost 900,000 students so they can pursue their dreams. MSEA also represents 44 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3-million-member National Education Association (NEA).

As educators continue to grapple with the implications of a rapidly changing artificial intelligence (AI) landscape, we appreciate efforts to ensure that any uses of AI in public schools are equitable, research-based, and developed with educator voices at the table. Underscoring the timeliness of this issue are the five principles for the use of AI in education adopted by the National Education Association in 2025:

- 1. Students and educators must remain at the center of education**
- 2. Evidence-based AI technology must enhance the educational experience**

3. **Ethical development and use of AI technology and strong data protection practices**
4. **Equitable access to and use of AI tools is ensured**
5. **Ongoing education with and about AI: AI literacy and agency¹**

This legislation aims to ensure that LEAs, educators, students, and families receive clear guidance on AI, that LEAs create policies governing the use of AI, that educators are trained and aware of the risks and opportunities associated with AI, and that stakeholders can provide insight, research, and recommendations regarding AI in schools.

We appreciate the sponsor's willingness to collaborate on amendments, and we believe that this bill as amended reflects the principles outlined above:

- **A collaborative workgroup emphasizes the role of students and educators at the center of education**

The collaborative convened by this bill includes groups representing students, families, and educators. Its reports will ensure that policies and procedures are based on the needs and experiences of those who will interact with AI in schools daily.

- **State-level guidance and local policies aim to ensure that evidence-based AI technology enhances the educational experience**

The statewide guidance and local policies under this bill will ensure that Maryland is intentional and strategic and how and when AI is used in schools, based on research and best practices rather than individual judgements.

- **An evaluative rubric for AI tools supports LEAs' ethical and equitable use of AI and promotes strong data protection practices**

As amended, this bill requires MSDE to provide guidance and a rubric to school systems for evaluating AI tools and ensuring that they are compliant with federal and state privacy and accessibility laws.

- **Professional development provides educators with ongoing education with and about AI**

¹ Five Principles for the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Education. National Education Association (2025). <https://www.nea.org/resource-library/artificial-intelligence-education/v-five-principles-use-artificial-intelligence-education>

As amended, this bill would require professional development for educators that covers AI use cases and ethics, including privacy, academic integrity, and strategies for preventing overdependence.

We are requesting one additional amendment clarifying that this training will be job-embedded, paid, or eligible for licensure renewal credit.

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The use of AI in education must be safe and equitable, balancing its benefits for learning while mitigating risks. This is a timely and evolving issue, and we appreciate the opportunity to work on a strategy that will help our schools adapt.

We urge the committee to issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 720 with the additional amendment outlined above.